



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Quarterly Meeting

May 21, 2010 . 9:00 to 12:00 . Lacey Community Center

Minutes

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nina Auerbach - Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive-by-Five
Peter Berliner - PRI Makers Network Managing Director, Philanthropy Northwest
Sue Winn - Family Child Care Provider
Susan Dreyfus - Secretary, Department of Social & Health Services
Paula Smith - Head of School, University Child Development School
Maria Vera - Parent & Early Learning Expert
James Skucy - Executive Director, Benton Franklin Head Start
Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH - State Health Officer, Department of Health
Senator Curtis King - Washington State Senate
Dr. Ilene Schwartz - Children with Disabilities
Lorena Lowell - Child Care Center Director/Owner (Co-Chair)
Jada Rupley - Associate Superintendent (Co-Chair)
Dr. Bob Hamilton (Representing Dr. Bette Hyde) - Deputy Director, Department of Early Learning
Representative Roger Goodman - Washington State House of Representatives
Kelli Bohanon - Director of Early Learning, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Todd McNerney - Parent

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Leslie Goldstein - Executive Policy Advisor, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Ann Daley - Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Board
Charles Earl - Director, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Representative Larry Haler - Washington State House of Representatives
Amber Havens - Educational Training Partners
Robin Higa - Parent
Senator Claudia Kauffman - Washington State Senate
Marie Zackuse - Tulalip Tribes of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING (DEL) STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Bonnie Beukema - DEL Staff to the Council

Sonali Patel - Senior Policy Advisor (presented)

Char Goodreau - DEL Staff to the Professional Development Consortium (presented)

OVERALL PURPOSE

The purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) is for representatives from the state's early learning stakeholder communities to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) so that DEL's strategies and actions are well-informed and are broadly supported by parents, early care providers, health/safety experts and interested parties. The Governor holds final authority for policy decisions.

WELCOME - AGENDA REVIEW

Jada Rupley provided a brief overview of the agenda for the day and initiated council and audience member introductions.

OPENING REMARKS FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOB HAMILTON

Bob Hamilton delivered opening remarks on behalf of Bette Hyde as Bette was unable to attend due to a last minute injury. Bob shared information about the recent structural reorganization within DEL. This is the second reorganization since Bette came to DEL in response to the realization that the first reorganization resulted in too much cross division responsibility. Bob explained that the Service Area Managers are now an independent group which will report directly to him. Kelli Bohanon is now the Assistant Director of the Partnership and Collaboration division which includes the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT, formerly ITEIP), the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS aka Seeds to Success), DEL's Parent/Family Initiatives and the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO). Bonnie Beukema is the Assistant Director of the Outcomes and Accountability Division which will look at measurable outcomes indicating how the work of DEL is making the world better for children and families. Feedback from the field in response to the reorganization has been positive thus far.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Jada Rupley led a discussion of several logistical issues related to the council:

- Jada explained the need to implement a better system for addressing public comments to assure that issues raised during that section are responded to. One of the issues raised last time was related to full day kindergarten; Kelli Bohanon will look into this.
- Conversation regarding extending the meetings beyond three hours has been occurring via email; Jada opened a council discussion about how best to proceed.
 - Nina Auerbach commented that she felt it would be a good idea and that currently the meeting is spent mostly listening to reports without enough time for council discussion.
 - Todd McNerney echoed Nina's comment, adding that he feels this is a vital issue for the group.

- Peter Berliner expressed the concern that adding more time would simply result in more reporting out. He suggested using technology to disseminate information outside of meeting times.
- Maxine Hayes commented that it depends on what it is that the group is trying to do. She agreed with Peter's concern that just extending the meeting without reshaping the agenda wouldn't address the problem and that we instead need to look at structure.
- Ilene Schwartz added that it is up to DEL to ask the council focused questions. She suggested shorter reports.
- Sue Winn shared that she feels part of the issue is that when the council only meets quarterly so much has happened since the last meeting that it takes a long time to catch up. She suggested possibly doing some of the catching up electronically by sending emails to the council as things happen.
- Maria Vera commented that as a small business owner she has to close her business to attend and would appreciate a more productive use of meeting time.
- Susan Dreyfus suggested looking into video conferencing capacity through Department of Information Services.
- Lorena Lowell commented that video conferencing would be extremely beneficial for the public as well as the council.
- Jada shared that about half of council member's terms are set to end in June and that the September meeting will serve as the transition meeting. A list of member terms will be sent to the council.

DEL REPORT-OUT/UPDATES

Legislative Session

Sonali Patel provided an overview key legislation from this past session (see handout):

- Senate Bill 5617: clarifies duties of ELAC and reduces the number of ELAC members from 25 to 23.
- House Bill 2867: Directs DEL, in collaboration with Thrive by Five and ELAC to develop a birth-to-three plan including recommended appropriation levels by December 1, 2010.
- Senate Bill 6759: Directs OSPI and DEL to convene a work group to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. Includes; DEL, OSPI, Thrive by Five, Office of the Attorney General, two ELAC members, and a other stakeholders to be appointed by ELAC. The group will report to the Quality Education Council (QEC) and ELAC on progress in July 2011 and submit a final report in November of 2011. The QEC will submit a final report to the legislature by July 2012.
- House Bill 2731: Establishes ECEAP as an entitlement for eligible children. Expansion will begin phasing in during the 2013-14 school year and will continue through the 2018-19 school year. Phase in will be aligned with districts implementing all day kindergarten.
- Senate Bill 6593: Transfers the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) from DSHS to DEL and changes the name to Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT).

- House Bill 3141: Sets a 12 month child care subsidy authorization period for families with children enrolled in both Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP or Head Start. DEL in consultation with DSHS will report to the legislature by September 1, 2011 about the impact of this change as well as recommendations for expansion.
- Senate Bill 6409: Creates a new education-related account in the state treasury funded by lottery revenues. ECEAP will receive \$40 million in FY 2011 from the Opportunity Pathways Account.
- House Bill 2617: Home visiting sections of Council for Children and Families RCW are recodified as new sections in DEL RCW.
- House Bill 6444: Operating Supplemental Budget 2010
 - For FY 2011 \$40 million from Opportunity Pathways Account replaces general funds for ECEAP.
 - Requires DEL to develop plan to improve child care licensing. Report due to the Legislature by January 15, 2011.
 - \$500,000 of state general fund for FY 2011 is provided for DEL to contract with Thrive by Five for home visitation programs.
 - DEL is authorized to increase child care center licensure fees.
- Council Discussion:
 - Ilene Schwartz asked about the status and impacts of basic education funding following the recent basic education lawsuit. She also cited the need to assure that the school environments that children transfer into provide quality experiences.
 - Susan Dreyfus explained that the lawsuit is still pending appeal but currently we're looking at a \$2.9 billion funding gap not including lawsuit costs.
 - Senator King mentioned that while the bill by Senator Zarelli didn't go anywhere this session, it addressed some of the issues being discussed and will be taken into consideration next session.
 - Lorena Lowell advised being careful to keep enough current ELAC members on the council after June to assure continuity. She also expressed concerned about the lack of child care provider representation in a lot of the big discussions happening in the state.
 - Sonali Patel commented on the additional need to strengthen parent involvement.
 - Nina Auerbach spoke briefly about the action plan related to home visiting funds.
 - Bonnie Beukema spoke briefly about House Bill 2776 which prioritizes full day kindergarten and smaller K-3 class sizes.
 - Susan Dreyfus commented that the ITEIP transfer is great but we still need to think about how governance will be shared for issues that cross agencies such as children who will require lifelong supports and thinking about how we move people out of poverty. She recommends that Bette Hyde and the Council be involved in work happening around Work First.
 - Representative Goodman spoke about HB 2731. He commented that we still have a long way to go in terms of services for birth to three, eliminating waitlists sooner than 2018,

and working out the details. He emphasized the development of social emotional skills as essential for civil civic engagement.

Sonali Patel also provided an update on the implementation of House Bill 3141 by DEL in partnership with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). She emphasized that it is a very quick timeline. The proposed rules and hearing schedule posted to the DEL website today. In developing guidance for crafting the rule the sub-cabinet looked at three key questions:

- Is the 12 month eligibility period only for the child in Head Start/ECEAP or does it apply to all children in the family who are receiving Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)? Answer: It applies to all children in the family who are receiving WCCC.
- When does the clock start on the 12 month period? Answer: When the family applies or reapplies for WCCC.
- What if the child leaves Head Start/ECEAP? Answer: the 12 month period continues but the family must report the change to DSHS.

Sonali mentioned that parent education classes have been added as an approved activity under Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) for the group receiving 12 month eligibility and DEL/DSHS is working with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) around using Secure Student Identification (SSID) numbers to capture data about these children.

- Council Discussion
 - Jada Rupley commented that she would have liked to see a public hearing scheduled in Vancouver. She encouraged the use of technology to increase opportunities for public participation.
 - Ilene Schwartz suggesting posting an audio recording of presentations online that people could respond to in writing.

Early Learning Plan

Kelli Bohanon provided an update on the status of the Early Learning Plan (See handouts):

- New outreach survey with only four questions.
- Engaging in targeted outreach to hard-to-reach communities.
- Have developed an outreach toolkit.
- Are developing/revising sections related to child care licensing, subsidy, the Benchmarks, numeracy, governance, indicators, quality assurance, and prioritizing/sequencing.
- Creating a three year action plan for DEL, Thrive by Five Washington and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, that will outline the key strategies and outcomes that the three lead agencies will address over the next three years in implementing the Early Learning Plan.
- Outreach period will close June 18th and final version of this incarnation of the plan will be ready for printing in August.

Kelli asked the council to think about where they see themselves in the plan development process between now and August:

- Susan Dreyfus asked where the plan intersects with health care reform and emphasized the importance of the health subcabinet as a site of opportunity that would be good for Bette Hyde to be directly involved in.
 - Nina Auerbach provided a brief explanation of the work of the ELP health workgroup.
 - Bob Hamilton expressed strong support for making this plan visible in the health context.
- Maxine Hayes commented on the need to make sure that what we say is translated into actual use. Staff in early learning settings need to know how to identify the highest need children.
 - Sue Winn added that providers also need to know where to go once the children are identified.
- Lorena Lowell commented that providers want to do these things but we need to think about how to connect them with the relevant agencies when neither providers nor the agencies have sufficient time and resources.
- Ilene Schwartz explained that she sees ELAC as having two different roles related to the ELP. One is look at the feedback data and help to make decisions about how to integrate it into the plan. The other is to review the plan after revisions have been made. She suggested having a subgroup look at the data and brainstorm about the best way to respond.
- Maria Vera expressed concern that we don't forget the people who don't fit into any of the programs represented here; people are falling through the cracks.
 - Kelli explained that next week a letter from OSPI, DEL and Thrive by Five will be released outlining the agencies' priorities with regard to the ELP and it includes services/outreach to underrepresented communities.
- Peter Berliner commented that it is not necessary for ELAC to engage directly in what is included in the plan at this point but rather the council's new role will be focused on implementation.
- Sue Winn emphasized that she believes it is important that a subgroup lay eyes on changes and provide feedback so that the council can say to people that their voice was heard.
- Maxine Hayes spoke about the need to focus on concrete implementation steps.

Early Learning Partnership Joint Resolution

Kelli Bohanon provided a brief update on the progress in preparation of the next quarterly update to the legislature. The accountability framework is being updated to include indicators and to set out priorities and action steps for the next three years. Beginning in June, the three year action plan will replace the framework.

State Advisory Council Grant Application

Kelli Bohanon provided a brief update on the application for \$1.5 million which will be used for a state advisory council (ELAC) to carry out early learning systems work. The application will be submitted one week from now. Key focus areas of the application include; the Early Learning and Development Benchmarks, WaKIDS, the Professional Development Consortium, QRIS, and the development of a collaborative governance model for Washington early learning efforts.

Professional Development Consortium (PDC)

Char Goodreau spoke about the progress of the PDC (See handouts):

- Washington received technical assistance and meeting facilitation from Region X and the National Child Care Information Center for the February 24, 2010 Professional Development Consortium Meeting.
- The PDC is focusing on elements of the professional development system as emphasized by NCCIC as well as the policy areas emphasized in the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) blueprint.
- The PDC has restructured itself organizationally around the NCCIC professional development systems elements, creating new workgroups focused specifically on the systems elements that inform policy. The PDC Steering Committee is made up of elected co-chairs from each of the new workgroups. The Steering Committee will report directly to ELAC. There will be a full PDC large group meeting on July 29th in Yakima. The PDC is sending a group to the upcoming NAEYC State Professional Development Work Day in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The Core Competenc^{ie}s are complete and are being reviewed by Zero to Three. Council Discussion
 - Jada Rupley commented that the group appears to have reorganized for results.
 - Representative Goodman emphasized the need to be child focused, particularly adult/child interactions.
 - Char spoke about the fact that the professional development system includes all early learning professionals not only those engaged in direct service. She also addressed the positive impact of the coaching/mentoring model implemented in Seeds to Success.
 - Sue Winn commented on the success of WaKIDS in expanding the understanding of early learning in the K-12 system; need partnerships.
 - Bob Hamilton added that WaKIDS will capture the resource of early learning that kids bring to kindergarten which is often wasted because there's no receiving mechanism.

Seeds to Success (QRIS)

Char Goodreau and Rachel Kim shared information about the status of Seeds to Success as it moves into the second year of the modified field test.

- Year One field test included the five original communities and focused on specific elements of the Seeds to Success Quality Standards by having each community pick an area of the model that they felt they had both the need for and the capacity to support.

The Thrive by Five Washington demonstration communities received additional support from the Gates Foundation and conducted a Random Control Trial in partnership with Mathematica Policy Research. The preliminary results of the evaluation were useful for year two planning but are not yet ready for public distribution.

The Seeds to Success Quality Standards have been revised and simplified to ensure that the standards are measurable, implemented consistently, and link to positive outcomes for children and families.

- Year Two:
 - Will rate all participating facilities using all four categories.
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 - Each voluntarily participating facility will receive consistent training and support.
 - Washington is one six states selected to receive technical assistance from the National Governors Association (NGA). The Washington Core Team will work with NGA on developing a five year vision for Seeds to Success.
- Council Discussion
 - Sue Winn asked if there has been turnover at the pilot sites.
 - Char explained that there has not been a lot of facility turnover; however there has been some teacher turnover.
 - Jada Rupley commented on the impact of coaching in the classroom.
 - Representative Goodman commented on the impact of learning by doing.
 - Nina Auerbach spoke in favor or the coaching model and thanked Char and Rachel for moving the work forward.
 - Susan Dreyfus asked about connections between the professional development system and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) framework.
 - Ilene Schwartz explained that those factors are definitely present although not necessarily through the ACES model.
 - Sue Winn commented that many providers are aware of this information but still need information about follow up which coaches will be able to provide.
 - Maria Vera mentioned that she and others are engaged in efforts to distribute this information in Yakima.
 - Bob Hamilton commented that it is our job to take our knowledge around family policy and integrate it into the QRIS model.

SSB 6759 TECHNICAL WORK GROUP

Bonnie Beukema provided an overview of the requirement outlined in SSB 6759 directing OSPI and DEL to convene a technical working group to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. ELAC is directed to appoint two council members to the working group and may also appoint additional partners and stakeholders.

Appointments

- Jada Rupley asked that ELAC unanimously move to appoint Representative Goodman and Senator King as the council representatives. The council agreed.
- Council members voted using paper ballots for additional partners and stakeholders.
 - Sue Winn asked why licensed providers were not included on the ballot.
 - Nina Auerbach explained that several of the nominees are able to represent that population.

- Bonnie emphasized that the people on this list are not the only people making decisions and that they will be reaching out to all types of stakeholders both in and outside of Washington.
- Bonnie will send the results via email to the council by the end of the day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mary Jo Shannon from American Federation of Teachers spoke about concerns among providers regarding the loss of public health nurses. She also spoke about the fact that AFT felt unable to send representatives to the NAEYC conference this year because it was in Arizona (political issues).

CLOSING REMARKS

- Next meeting was announced for September 14th – **This was a mistake, the next meeting is actually September 13th.**
- Council member appointments will change at the September meeting- both outgoing and incoming members should attend.
- Bob Hamilton expressed thanks on behalf of himself and Bette Hyde for all of the work that those present do for kids.
- Susan Dreyfus spoke briefly about ILABS.
- Lorena Lowell urged members to keep in mind the tremendous economic strain facing providers in the field at the moment.